31st January 1936]

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu :—" I am not quite sure whether it was formally offered. I have stated before that if a municipality or district board is ever willing to undertake the distribution, preference will be given to it."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—" May I know whether the previous support of the municipality to the company has in any way altered the position so far as the Government is concerned? "

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu :—" The resolution itself was passed recently, I believe."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—" I would like to know from the Hon. the Law Member as to whether the resolution that was passed by the Wallajah Municipality has in any way changed the policy of the Government in regard to the matter under consideration? "

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu :—" That question has not at all been considered."

Refusal of licence to private bodies for distribution of Mettur power in the North Arcot district.

* 637 Q.—Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar : Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether the Government have finally decided to refuse licences for distributing Mettur electric energy in the North Arcot district except in the taluks where licences had already been granted?

A.—The Government have rejected one such application for a licence and have not yet passed final orders on another similar application, pending receipt of the reply to a reference made to the applicant.

Prisons and Prisoners

Observance of Ramzan by the Muslim convicts in jails.

* 638 Q.—K. P. V. S. Muhammad Meera Ravuttar Bahadur : Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Muslim convicts (males and females) in each jail;

(b) the number of convicts who observed fasting during the month of Ramzan in each jail; and

(c) whether the Hon. the Law Member will be pleased to issue orders to give rice diet to such of the convicts as observe fasting?

A.—(a) There were 2,564 Muslim convicts (2,483 males and 81 females) confined in the various jails of this Presidency in 1934. Information for the year 1935 and separately for each jail is not available.

(b) The Government have no information.

(c) Convicts are given the class of diet recommended by the convicting courts and the court's classification is not changed except on medical grounds. The Government do not propose to relax the rules regarding jail dietary in favour of convicts who observe fasts.

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" I take it, Sir, that the policy of the Government in punishing offenders is more with a view to their reformation than for mere conviction and punishment. In such circumstances may I know whether the Government will not consider it advisable to afford prisoners belonging to different classes and communities, facilities which will enable them to live, even during the period of incarceration, such as giving them rice diet when they are fasting? "

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU :—" Other circumstances will have also to be considered in deciding this. Supposing for instance, every Hindu wants a particular kind of rice, say, on Ekadasi day, it would not be possible for Government to give it because there are so many Hindu festivals; in any particular place any action taken by Government should be consistent with the rules. If in regard to any particular community, be it Muslim or Hindu, the officers recommend that a particular kind of food be given, certainly, the Government will do it. There is also the question of finance."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I know whether the Government will examine the question in view of the fact that the Ramzan lasts for one month and it is very essential that during this period facilities with regard to diet should be given in conformity with the rules? I would like to know whether the Government will have the question examined as to how far it is possible to afford such facilities? "

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU :—" I have no objection."

S. M. K. BEYABANI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Will not the giving of a particular diet to the Muslim convicts be more economical because they take only one meal during this period? "

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU :—" I think that will be covered by my promise to examine the question. I can say nothing more than that.

Irrigation

Publication of the reports regarding the deepening of the Valappar and the construction of a calingula.

* 639 *Q.*—Mr. K. S. SIVASUBRAHMANYA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to lay on the table of the House—

(a) copy of the reports accompanying the estimates for " deepening the river Valappar and constructing a calingula across the same and constructing a calingula across Nadagudi drainage " with crest levels of the different portions of the body walls of the dams and the top level of the dam stones fixed in the dams;